## IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for producing a fluorene derivative, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenolic compound represented by the formula (I)

$$OH$$
 $(R)_n$ 
 $(I)$ 

wherein R represents an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group or a cycloalkyl group, and n denotes an integer of 0 to 4,

to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a mercaptocarboxylic acid and a 5% to 37% by weight hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain a fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II)

$$(R)_n$$
  $(R)_n$   $(II)$ 

wherein R and n have the same meanings as defined above, and wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the mercaptocarboxylic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the 5% to 37% by weight hydrochloric acid aqueous solution [the mercaptocarboxylic acid/hydrogen chloride] is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3, the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorene relative to the mercaptocarboxylic acid is 1.0/0.05 to 1.0/0.3 and an extractant is added to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and a crystallization solvent is added to the organic layer to

crystallize the fluorene derivative.

- 2. (*Original*): A method according to claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises phenol or a  $C_{1-4}$ alkylphenol.
- 3. (*Original*): A method according to claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises a 2-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylphenol or a 3-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylphenol.
  - 4. 8. (Canceled).
- 9. (*Currently Amended*): A method for producing a fluorene derivative, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenolic compound represented by the formula (I)

$$\begin{array}{c}
\mathsf{OH} \\
(\mathsf{R})_{\mathsf{n}}
\end{array}$$

wherein R represents an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group or a cycloalkyl group, and n denotes an integer of 0 to 4,

to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a thiol and a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain a fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II):

$$(R)_n$$
  $(R)_n$   $(II)$ 

wherein R and n have the same meanings as defined above, and
wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the thiol relative to hydrogen chloride
contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution [thiol/hydrogen chloride] is 1.0/0.1 to
1.0/3.0 and the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to the thiol [fluorenone/ thiol]
is 1.0/0.05 to 1.0/0.3.

## 10. (Canceled):

11. (*Currently Amended*): A method according to claim <u>9</u>10, wherein the proportion (weight ratio) thiol relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution [the thiol/hydrogen chloride] is 1/0.1 to 1/3.

## 12. – 13. (*Canceled*):

- 14. (*Currently Amended*): A method according to claim <u>913</u>, wherein the proportion of (weight ratio) fluorenone relative to thiol is 1/0.08 to 1/0.15.
- 15. (*Previously Presented*): A method according to claim 9, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 5 to 37% by weight.
- 16. (*Previously Presented*): A method according to claim 15, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 25 to 37% by weight.
- 17. (*Previously Presented*): A method according to claim 16, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 30 to 37% by weight.
- 18. (*Previously Presented*): A method according to claim 9, wherein the thiol is a mercaptocarboxylic acid.
- 19. (*Previously Presented*): A method according to claim 9, further comprising: adding an extractant to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and

adding a crystallization solvent to the organic layer to crystallize the fluorene derivative.

20. (Currently Amended): A method for producing a 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-C<sub>1</sub>.

4alkylphenyl)fluorene, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a C<sub>1</sub>-4alkylphenol to a condensation reaction in coexistence with β-mercaptopropionic acid and a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain the 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylphenyl)fluorine, and

wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the β-mercaptopropionic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution [β-mercaptopropionic acid/hydrogen chloride] is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3 and the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to β-mercaptopropionic acid [fluorenone/β-mercaptopropionic acid] is 1/0.05 to 1/0.3.